

First named inventor: Heiles
Serial no. 10/027,687
Filed 12/20/2001
Attorney docket no. 10017892-1

Page 2

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In the claims

1. (currently amended) A digital camera comprising:
a picture-taking mechanism to take pictures by generating image files corresponding to the pictures; and,
a contact sheet generation mechanism to generate one or more contact sheet files, each contact sheet file including a plurality of thumbnail images, each thumbnail image corresponding to one of the image files,
wherein the contact sheet generation mechanism, in response to determining that a current contact sheet file includes a maximum number of thumbnail images after adding an additional thumbnail image to the current contact sheet file, is to create a new contact sheet file and set the new contact sheet file as the current contact sheet file to which further thumbnail images are to be added.
2. (original) The digital camera of claim 1, wherein the contact sheet generation mechanism dynamically generates the one or more contact sheet files as the pictures are taken by the picture-taking mechanism.
3. (currently amended) The digital camera of claim 2, wherein the contact sheet generation mechanism further dynamically generates updates the one or more contact sheet files as the image files are selectively ~~removed~~ deleted from the digital camera by a user of the digital camera, such that the contact sheet generation mechanism, in response to determining that one or more of the contact sheet files upon being updated includes one or more empty contact sheet files, is to delete the empty contact sheet files.

First named inventor: Heiles
Serial no. 10/027,687
Filed 12/20/2001
Attorney docket no. 10017892-1

Page 3

4. (original) The digital camera of claim 1, wherein the contact sheet generation mechanism generates the one or more contact sheet files upon user command.
5. (original) The digital camera of claim 1, wherein the contact sheet generation mechanism generates the one or more contact sheet files when the image files are uploaded to another device.
6. (original) The digital camera of claim 1, wherein each contact sheet file includes for each thumbnail image of the plurality of thumbnail images at least one of: a file name of the image file corresponding to the thumbnail image, a date the picture to which the image file corresponding to the thumbnail image corresponds was taken, identifying information of the digital camera, and user-supplied information regarding the picture to which the image file corresponding to the thumbnail image corresponds.
7. (original) The digital camera of claim 1, wherein the image files are generated according to a file format, and the one or more contact sheet files are generated according to the file format.
8. (original) The digital camera of claim 1, further comprising an uploading mechanism to selectively upload at least some of the image files and at least some of the one or more contact sheet files to another device.
9. (currently amended) A digital camera comprising:
 - a picture-taking mechanism to take pictures by generating image files corresponding to the pictures; and,
 - a contact sheet generation mechanism to generate one or more persistent additional image files, each additional image file including a plurality of reduced-in-size images, each reduced-in-size image corresponding to one of the image files generated by the picture-taking mechanism,

First named inventor: Heiles
Serial no. 10/027,687
Filed 12/20/2001
Attorney docket no. 10017892-1

Page 4

wherein the contact sheet generation mechanism, in response to determining that a current persistent additional image file includes a maximum number of reduced-in-size images after adding an additional reduced-in-size image to the current persistent additional image file, is to create a new persistent additional image file and set the new persistent additional image file as the current persistent additional image file to which further reduced-in-size images are to be added.

10. (original) The digital camera of claim 9, wherein each image file generated by the picture-taking mechanism and each persistent additional image file generated by the contact sheet generation mechanism has a same size.

11. (original) The digital camera of claim 9, wherein the contact sheet generation mechanism dynamically generates the one or more persistent additional image files as the pictures are taken by the picture-taking mechanism.

12. (original) The digital camera of claim 9, wherein the contact sheet generation mechanism generates the one or more persistent additional image files in response to an event.

13. (original) The digital camera of claim 12, wherein the event comprises one of: user command, and uploading of the image files to another device.

14. (currently amended) A digital camera comprising:
means for generating image files corresponding to pictures taken by the digital camera;
and,
means for generating one or more contact sheet files, each contact sheet file including a plurality of thumbnail images, each thumbnail image corresponding to one of the image files,
wherein the means for generating the one or more contact sheet files, in response to

First named inventor: Heiles
Serial no. 10/027,687
Filed 12/20/2001
Attorney docket no. 10017892-1

Page 5

determining that a current contact sheet file includes a maximum number of thumbnail images after adding an additional thumbnail image to the current contact sheet file, is to create a new contact sheet file and set the new contact sheet file as the current contact sheet file to which further thumbnail images are to be added.

15. (original) The digital camera of claim 14, wherein the means for generating the one or more contact sheet files further is for dynamically updating the one or more contact sheet files as the pictures are taken by the digital camera.

16. (currently amended) The digital camera of claim 14, wherein the means for generating the one or more contact sheet files further is for dynamically updating the one or more contact sheet files as at least some of the image files are deleted from the digital camera, such that the means for generating the one or more contact sheet files, in response to determining that one or more of the contact sheet files upon being updated includes one or more empty contact sheet files, is to delete the empty contact sheet files.

17. (currently amended) A method for performance by a digital camera comprising:
generating image files corresponding to pictures taken with the digital camera; and,
generating one or more contact sheet files, each contact sheet file including a plurality of thumbnail images, each thumbnail image corresponding to one of the image files;
generating an additional image file corresponding to an additional picture taken with the digital camera;
updating a contact sheet file of the one or more contact sheet files to include a thumbnail image corresponding to the additional image file;
determining whether the current contact sheet file includes a maximum number of thumbnail images after including the thumbnail image corresponding to the additional image file;

First named inventor: Heiles
Serial no. 10/027,687
Filed 12/20/2001
Attorney docket no. 10017892-1

Page 6

in response to determining that the current sheet file includes the maximum number of thumbnail images,

creating a new contact sheet file; and,

setting the new contact sheet file as the current contact sheet file.

18.-19. (cancelled)

20. The method of claim 17, further comprising generating an additional image file and updating a current contact sheet file of the one or more contact sheet files to include a thumbnail image corresponding to the additional image file for each of an additional number of pictures taken with the digital camera.

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) A method for performance by a digital camera comprising:
removing an indicated image file selected from a plurality of image files corresponding to pictures taken with the digital camera; and,
updating one or more contact sheet files including the contact sheet file previously updated to remove a thumbnail image corresponding to the indicated image file from the one or more contact sheet files;
determining whether the one or more contact sheet files as updated include one or more empty contact sheet files; and,
in response to determining that the one or more contact sheet files as updated include one or more empty contact sheet files, deleting at least one of the one or more empty contact sheet files.

First named inventor: Heiles
Serial no. 10/027,687
Filed 12/20/2001
Attorney docket no. 10017892-1

Page 7

23. (cancelled)

24. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a digital camera comprising:

a first set of instructions for generating first image files corresponding to pictures taken with the digital camera;

a second set of instructions for generating one or more second image files, each second image file including a plurality of reduced-in-size images, each reduced-in-size image corresponding to one of the first image files,

wherein the second set of instructions, in response to determining that a current second image file includes a maximum number of reduced-in-size images after adding an additional reduced-in-sized image to the current second image file, is to create a new second image file and set the new second image file as the current second image file to which further reduced-in-size images are to be added.

25. (original) The medium of claim 24, further comprising a third set of instructions for uploading the first image files and the one or more second image files to another device.

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